

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

Alaska Division of Agriculture
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NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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As of January 1, 2006

All potatoes in storage in **ALASKA** as of January 1, 2006 totaled 118,000 cwt. This was 71 percent of the 2005 crop and compares with 126,000 cwt or 71 percent on hand during the same period last year. The 2003 level for the January 1 stocks was 90,000 cwt. The five year average stocks on hand for January 1 is 116,800 cwt.

Disappearance since December 1 was 11,000 cwt, compared with 11,000 cwt last year, and the five year average of 14,300 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes from the start of the harvest to January 1 totaled 48,000 cwt; comparable disappearance for a year earlier was 51,000 cwt. The five year average is 54,800 cwt. The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest by late blight and frost damage. In 2005 late blight was identified in fields in the Mat-Su Valley. Losses in the field due to late blight ranged from severe to mild. Losses post-harvest are included in the disappearance. In 2004 there was a small loss of potatoes due to frost damage, while in 2003 there was significant loss due to frost damage that is reflected in the disappearance.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purpose and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report.

The **13 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 219 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2006, down 7 percent from last year and 6 percent below January 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 59 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year.

Disappearance of 154 million cwt of potatoes is down 7 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 16.2 million cwt so far this season, is down 14 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors in the 9 major States have used 81.7 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 5 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 16.0 million cwt of the total processing, down 14 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2004.

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ALASKA POTATO STOCKS – JANUARY 1, 2006

Year	Stocks			Production	January 1 Stocks as a Percent of Production
	Jan. 1	Dec. 1	Oct. 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----				-- Percent --
2005	118.0	129.0	145.0	166.0	71%
2004	126.0	137.0	154.0	177.0	71%
2003	90.0	110.0	147.0	168.0	54%

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